

assigning each subscriber a billing account in a billing database; and
determining at least one subscriber in each group as a master subscriber, the master subscriber having access rights to the billing database and carrying out predetermined procedures in and between the accounts of the subscriber billing group.

2. (*Amended*) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the master subscriber has access rights to the billing database through the telecommunication network.

3. (*Amended*) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the master subscriber carries out balance transfers between the billing accounts within the group.

4. (*Amended*) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each the billing account has a limited balance, and the master subscriber changes the balance limit or balance of the billing account.

5. (*Amended*) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein each the billing account is a prepayment account and/or an account equipped with a credit limit.

6. (*Amended*) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the credit limit is obtained from the balance of the master subscriber.

7. (*Amended*) A system for billing a plurality of telecommunication network subscribers wherein each subscriber has billing accounts in a billing database that are charged when services of a telecommunication network are used, the system comprising:

a subscriber database having at least one subscriber billing group including at least two subscribers, each subscriber having a billing account in the billing database, and at least one subscriber in each group is a master subscriber,

wherein the master subscriber having access rights to the billing database and carries out predetermined procedures in and between the accounts of the subscriber billing group, and

a telecommunication server connected to the subscriber database, the master subscriber connecting through the telecommunication network to the server to carry out the predetermined procedures in the billing database.

8. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the master subscriber has access rights to the billing database through the telecommunication network.

9. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the predetermined procedures include balance transfers between the billing accounts within each the group.

10. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein each the billing account has a limited balance, and the predetermined procedures include changing the balance limit or balance of the billing account.

11. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the billing account is a prepayment account and/or an account equipped with a credit limit.

12. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the credit limit is obtained from the balance of the master subscriber.

13. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the master subscriber accesses the telecommunication service by making a facility call to a predetermined service number.

14. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the telecommunication server includes an automatic answering apparatus.

15. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the telecommunication server is a World Wide Web (WWW) server.

16. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the telecommunication server is a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) server.

17. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the telecommunication server is a short message centre or a short message server.

See the attached Appendix for the changes made to effect the above claims.